

IN THE CLAIMS

C1 1 (Currently amended). An purified interleukin-18 protein comprising a part functional fragment or the whole of the amino acid sequence shown in of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~or 2~~

C2 2 (Amended). The purified interleukin-18-binding protein of claim 1, which comprises 4 to 29 contiguous amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~or 2~~ obtainable by reducing and alkylating a peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and digesting the resulting reduced and alkylated peptide with trypsin or trypsin-pepsin.

3 (Currently amended). The purified interleukin-18-binding protein of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which exhibits a molecular weight of about 40,000 to about 60,000 daltons on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

C3 4 (Currently amended). The purified interleukin-18-binding protein of claim 1, ~~2, or 3~~, which is obtainable from a mammalian body fluid.

5 (Currently amended). An isolated DNA encoding the interleukin-18-binding protein of any one of claims 1 ~~to 4~~, with the proviso that said DNA does not consist of nucleotide residues 35 to 485 of SEQ ID NO:32.

6 (Currently amended). The DNA of claim 5, which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown of SEQ ID NO:32 ~~or~~ 33, a nucleotide sequence homologous to said nucleotide sequence, which has a homology of higher than 61% to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said nucleotide sequences.

7 (Currently amended). An interleukin-18-suppressor ~~containing composition, comprising as an effective ingredient the interleukin-18-binding protein of any one of claims 1 to 4 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent, or excipient.~~

8 (Currently amended). An agent pharmaceutical composition for susceptive diseases, containing as an effective ingredient comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or excipient and the interleukin-18-binding protein of any one of claims 1 to 4, said susceptive diseases being diseases which can be treated or prevented by the interleukin-18-binding protein.

9 (Currently amended). The agent for susceptive diseases of claim 8, as an anti-immunopathie agent wherein said susceptive diseases are immunopathies.

10 (New). An isolated peptide fragment, which consists of 4 to 29 contiguous amino acid residues in the amino acid

C4 sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and has an interleukin-18-binding activity.

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